back to school guide:

piecing it all together



kansas 11 state ; CO12111

No guide on 'How to Study: The Right Way'



Studying (a word that is often pointed out as a combination of the words "student" and "dying"), like having a job or going to the dentist, is a necessary evil in life. Necessary in the sense that everyone without a genius IQ not wishing their GPA to plummet, must study. And as far as the evil aspect, I believe that speaks for itself.

However, knowing something is important doesn't make the task any easier. In fact, it usually causes the opposite and makes it harder. The most important thing to think about when preparing for that big midterm that accounts for 30 percent of your grade, is to not stress about the results. (Easier said than done, right?) Instead of dwelling on how much of your grade will be affected or how many historical facts must be memorized, focus on small amounts of material at a time. Spread studying over a few days; study for a short time several times instead of cramming, as this will allow one to retain more information for longer.

Another thing to keep in mind is determining an individual's study environment. Are you comfortable with an organized chaos? Or do you need your notes to be organized and alphabetized before even thinking about studying? Unfortunately, there is no blueprint labeled "How to Study: The Right Way," so finding a successful method is up to each person. But, no matter what your studying preferences, it's important to understand what works best for your learning styles and stick with it. If Andrew from Psych 530 said he only "ran through his notes before class" and "still got an A," doesn't mean the rest of us will too. Learn your own style and study according to your individual learning curve. And the most important aspect of all: make sure you know the information.

Choosing a studying style in both atmosphere and method that is right for you will help make your semester a smooth one. So the next time your teacher schedules a test, remember not to panic and study the way you find to be most productive.

> Bethaney Wallace is a senior in **Engilsh literature and creative** writing. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

Studying Smart



Study in short intervals rather than cramming

Start out the New Year and new semester fresh with new study habits to get the grades you should have gotten last semester. Although this may seem early and a bit repetitive, it is always easier said than done when deciding you are going to study extra hard this semester. I may not be the most fabulous student at K-State but by being a junior with a major in English and a minor in French, I have learned a thing or two about the joys of studying.

One huge secret to studying I learned upon coming to K-State is easy: study ahead of time. Teachers have told me time and time again just study a little bit every day and you will do great on the exam. I completely agree with this idea and I am sure it works. However, if you are like me and are a full-time student with two jobs and something of a social life, that is nearly impossible. However, I learned during those disgusting adventures on the shuttle to and from work I was able to quiz myself on all my vocabulary words for at least ten minutes depending on how fast or slow the shuttle driver drove that particular day.

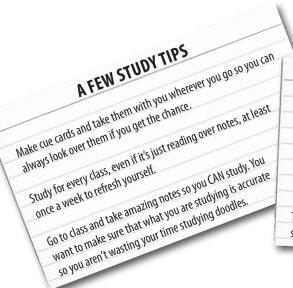
Another trick I learned was to study every Saturday or Sunday for every class, even if an exam wasn't around the corner. Simply looking over notes and refreshing my mind with the information from class became a great way to study, rather than cramming the night before. Which by the way I am terrible at doing; If I even attempt to cram, I fail. It's inevitable.

Jordann Pfannenstiel is a junior in English literature. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.



Above: Students have started to study early in order to prepare for the spring semester. Left: Jon Weiss, freshman in mechanical engineering, uses his free time at the beginning of the semester to make sure he is well prepared.

Photos by Tommy Thies COLLEGIAN

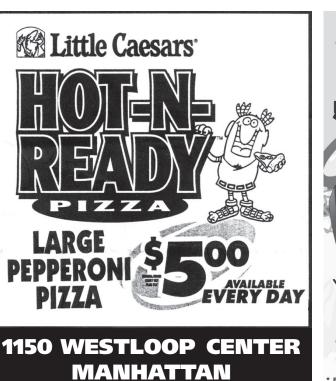


Give yourself a treat before or after studying for each class. Buy yourself a coffee or favorite snack before or after hitting the books. But after the few hours of studying, hitting the 'ville is always a wonderful treat.

Take your time with your studies and make sure you know what you are studying before the exam.

Treat being a student as a job. If you got paid for every hour you studied, your grades would be superb.













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Tim's top five tips for starting the semester successfully

brings the feeling of rejuvenation and a fresh start to most everyone on campus. Many are filled with exciting new thoughts and ideas this fresh start, but making these ideas a reality can be a challenge if they don't get off to a right start. For many students, myself included, getting back into the college mindset can be hard to do, especially when all you can think about is what you did over break and all of your grandiose plans for the new semester. Overcoming this state of listlessness can be difficult and in order to do it, I created a checklist for success. I share it in the hopes that it might help any struggling K-Staters.

1.) Get organized:

This is the most important thing on my list. Organization will create an atmosphere that is clear and defined. Tracking down lose ends and keeping track of them is important and can help you stay on task. Additionally by getting organized you can create a better working environment for yourself.

2.) Set some Goals:

You can't really get anywhere unless you know where you want to go. Find some things to strive for; when you reach your goals set new ones. Nothing feels better than accomplishment.

3.) Prioritize:

Take some time to figure out what is important to you. Think

The start of every semester rings the feeling of rejuvenation and a fresh start to most everyone n campus. Many are filled with sciting new thoughts and ideas commitments.

4.) Relax:

Change can be very hard to come to peace with; I speak from experience when I say, sometimes it's almost impossible, but it's doable. It's important to not get frustrated and instead embrace it. Setting the mood for a semester is very important, your attitude can affect the outcome of your semester so it's important you have a good one.

5.) Hit the ground running:

Once you've reached your place of Zen it's time to exit the comfort zone and get to work. Staying busy is important because it can keep you on task with your priorities, help you stay organized and stick to your goals. Keep in mind the things you've determined are important, but if you get right to work you'll be less likely to lose motivation.

These five things have helped me stay successful in college. It's also important to make sure to find time to surround yourself with the people that matter most to you. Having a support system makes everything easier for students living in a high stress environment like college.

Tim Schrag is a sophomore in journalism. Please send comments to <code>edge@spub.ksu.edu</code>



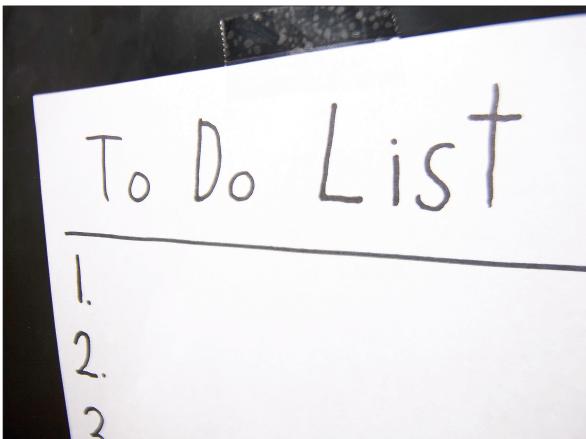






photo illustrations by Matt Binter





Kansas blizzard causes traveling dangers, inconveniences



It is not often I find a reason to travel to Lawrence. Indeed, I have been known to hold my breath as I drive through on my way to Kansas City, but during the first week of this new year, Jan. 5 and 6, my job as managing editor of the Collegian required me to travel to Lawrence for the Editor's Retreat at the Lawrence Journal-World.

Every semester for the retreat, the new editors on the Collegian staff spend a day or two observing and learning at a commercial newspaper. In previous years the editors have been to the Wichita Eagle, the Kansas City Star, and nearly every other major newspaper in Kansas.

"The Lawrence Journal-World was pretty much the only one we hadn't been to," said Corene Brisendine, Editor in Chief of the Collegian for the spring 2010 semester. This was her justification for dragging a dozen K-Staters into enemy territory, a decision that quite nearly ended in disaster.

After two days observing and learning from the staff at the Lawrence Journal-World, including several hours in committee plotting a course for the Collegian this semester, the retreat came to an end at about 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

It had been noticed during a short recess an hour before that it was beginning to snow, and we had heard that a snowstorm was approaching. What we had not been told was just how bad the storm was going to be, which explains our lack of haste leaving the city. Four of us, Stephen Wolgast, Brisendine, Tim Schrag and I stopped for a late leisurely lunch before getting into our vehicles at about 2:30 p.m., and it is possible Mother Nature saw this as mocking of her authority

The moment we four left Lawrence, our caravan was hit with blustery winds and blowing snow far beyond what we expected. The four-lane interstate quickly became one lane in each direction, and passing other vehicles turned into a risky venture in the snow covered passing lane that had retained enough heat to turn the snow into slush. Former Governor Sebelius would have been pleased; no one on the road that day was guilty of "lingering in the left lane." In the slick conditions the caravan got broken up and it become every men for bimoulf

and it became every man for himself. Eventually I outpaced the storm,



Rachel Spicer | COLLEGIAN Above: Robert Schweiger, junior in civil engineering, parked his car alongside a country road in order to admire snow piles built up by plows and strong winds. Eight foot snow piles line miles of road after recent snowstorms.

Tommy Thies | COLLEGIAN Right: A student treks though the thick snow on the K-State Quad. Facility workers removed heavy snow throughout the break.vvv

and reached Manhattan during a light snowfall. After changing from my dress clothes and visiting the mall, I began the second leg of my journey home to Peabody, Kan. at about 6:30 p.m. Again, my delay in the face of the oncoming storm was perhaps an affront to Mother Nature, and I paid for it.

As soon as the sun went down visibility was reduced to the front bumper of my jeep and blowing snow frequently blotted out any distinction between road and ditch, and I began to regret my decision to leave Manhattan. However, my discomfort became another's salvation, because somewhere along Highway 77, I came upon a car which had buried itself in a drift on the left (east) side of the road. It was impossible to determine where exactly this occurred because landmarks were hidden from view by the snowstorm.

A station wagon ahead of me stopped and the driver went to the car to see if assistance was needed. I pulled to stop, gingerly, not trusting my tires' traction, turned on my flashers, and hopped out to evaluate the situation.

"You wanna try and push her out?" the station wagon driver replied as soon as I said "hello."

I shrugged, momentarily losing my



mind. "Let's do it."

The car's nose was buried, so we shifted snow and then got our hands under the bumper. Thankfully, we found footing in the wind-packed snowdrift and heaved. I think I freaked the station wagon driver out with my howling and growling as we strained to release the car, but after pushing it backwards six feet through the snow, its tires found purchase. It rolled right out from under me and I went face down in the snow. It was a bit chilly, but the adrenaline pumping through me staved off the cold.

The lady driving the freed car then asked us if we thought she should stay on the main roads. Resisting the urge to

laugh, I told her it would "probably be a

My normal hour and a half drive ended after two hours and 15 minutes, driving at about 40 or 50 mph for the remainder of the trip.

I wish I could conclude by saying no good ever comes of a trip to Lawrence, but it did save that lady from waiting for a tow truck, or worse. My conclusion is therefore, visit Lawrence for the food and limit your time there, pay attention to the weather forecast, and of course, stay on the main roads.

Jesse Riggs is a senior in print journalism. Send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

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Used textbooks, coupons help save students money

It's the beginning of the semester, and a new year is here. Along with a new year comes paying for tuition and books, which in my book has never been fun at all.

However, when it comes to buying books, paying top dollar isn't necessary, especially at some of our local bookstores.

Students can always try and buy books online from Amazon.com, Craigslist.com, and numerous other Web sites to keep costs low. Last semester I saved about \$100 by buying a few of my books online. However, I had to go to Varney's for another that I was unable to find on Amazon. Sometimes that special book can't be found online, and inevitably a student ends up buying it from Varney's. If this becomes a necessity, I recommend buying the "used" books. Not only are these books cheaper, but also might contain helpful notes in the margins or highlighting of key terms to memorize.

While standing in line at Varney's, be on the lookout for coupon books filled with a plethora of deals around town, includ-

ing restaurants such as Mr. Goodcents, Pita Pit, Subway, Pizza Hut and other favorites. Other deals offer money off late fees at Digital Shelf and discounts at the K-State Superstore. Don't be afraid to pick up more than one of these either, maybe three or four to use throughout the semester. They come in handy. My boyfriend and I often enjoy picking out where to eat based on what coupons are in the coupon book.

We are in college, and for most of us money is tight, but we don't always feel like cooking or eating ramen. It's important to not worry about looking goofy going somewhere and using a coupon to purchase something. After all the businesses that issue the coupons are happy you come in and support their business. That's why they put out the coupons. So, whether eating out or buying textbooks, using coupons and being thrifty isn't being cheap, it's being responsible.

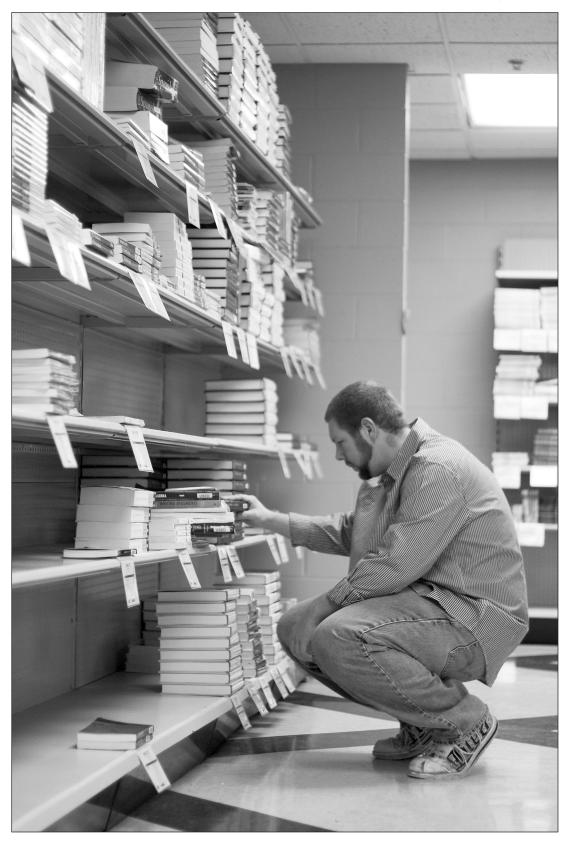
Danielle Spellmeier is sophomore in elementary education. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu



photos by Tommy Theis | COLLEGIAN

Above: This semester, the Union Bookstore has started selling around 280 Jumpbooks, which are online subscriptions to your school textbooks. Most of these subscriptions last around 180 days.

Right: Tyler James, junior in industrial engineering, looks though textbooks for his new classes in the Union Bookstore Tuesday afternoon.



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"I actually don't believe in New Years resolutions."

Stephen Wierners senior in management information systems



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Shawn Ryan graduate student in counseling



"I really need to exercise more and eat hetter"

Kyle Walters K-State graduate



"I wanted to eat out less, but I'm eating

Laura Butts K-State graduate

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